

OPWDD/Provider Association Partnership

Monthly Meeting – May 23, 2011

Meeting Notes

OPWDD Attendees: Commissioner Courtney Burke; Jim Moran; Jay Kiyonaga; Barbara Brundage; Jill Gentile; Ceylane Meyers; Harry Hamelin; Jenny Haneman; Caryn Scott; and topic-specific staff

Provider Association Attendees: Wafa Abboud (Multi-culture Council); Jan Abelseth (COMPASS Agencies); Sue Constantino (CP Association of NYS); Patricia Dowse (NYS Rehabilitation Association); Mark Foley (DDAWNY); Ann Hardiman (NYSACRA); John Kemmer (NYSARC); Ed Matthews (CP of NYC); Gary Milford (Learning Disabilities Association of NY); Anne Ogden (NYS Catholic Conference); Peter Pierri (Inter Agency Council); Seth Stein (Long Island Alliance); Barbara Wale (EDA NYSARC); Yvette Watts (NY Assoc. of Emerging & Multicultural Providers, Inc.);

Welcome/General Remarks

- Commissioner Burke noted that the public forums concerning the 1115 Waiver will begin on May 25th and she indicated that during the recent listening sessions held with individuals, families and self advocates across the state, common themes emerged including positive feedback on Consolidated Supports and Services (CSS), but some concerns were noted over budget cuts and availability of services as a result of aging parents. She indicated that the ideas expressed are being catalogued and summarized and will be available on the OPWDD website in the near future.
- The Commissioner indicated that the 1115 Waiver Steering Committee members will be announced in the next two weeks.
- The Commissioner indicated that the SAGE Commission report should be coming out soon and it is expected that OPWDD will not be merged into another agency. However there might be functional areas within the agency that might be affected, but we will have to wait until the report is out with the details.

Oversight and Accountability Update

- Jim Moran announced that in the interest of transparency, a public document will be maintained on the OPWDD web page, outlining oversight and accountability activities that OPWDD is currently working on.

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- An Incident Reporting Protocol with law enforcement and an MOU are being developed with the State Police. The MOU will outline the role of a State Police liaison, including how to report and to whom, and limited assistance with local law enforcement.
- The PA Group suggested that there be a State Government liaison with the New York City Police Department.
- *Incident Reporting Management Application (IRMA)* – Leslie Fuld reported that two informational sessions will be held on May 25th, and mandatory training for providers will be held June-August. Providers were asked to let OPWDD know which electronic applications they were using. Five regional staff will be hired to be available to provide oversight for both state operations and voluntary providers.
- *Personal Affirmation ADM* – State employees have to sign an attestation on a regular basis that they have reported any incidents of abuse or neglect of individuals receiving services in accordance with OPWDD regulations; however PA members felt that such a routine attestation will become perfunctory as opposed to critical. PA Members were asked to provide feedback regarding a staff accountability policy that could work across all voluntary agencies, and OPWDD will hold the ADM until this feedback is received.
- *Early Alert Committee*– This committee has been in place for 13 years, but has changed over the years. OPWDD wants this to be more transparent going forward and will share a draft protocol with the PA Group within the next couple of weeks. Members were asked to provide feedback to OPWDD with recommendations prior to the next PA meeting.
- *New DQM Survey Protocol on Protections* – OPWDD will do a centralized review of DQM reports and will ask the PA Members to help develop consistent guidelines. DQM will focus greater attention on provider agency actions after an allegation is made (i.e. corrections, protection of the individual, training of staff) and responsibilities of the MSC, including whether the MSC is to follow up with the agency to ensure individual protection is secured.

Fire Safety

- Helene DeSanto presented on a MOU that was recently put into place between OPWDD and the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC), and the status of

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a draft ADM on Standards of Fire Safety, against which future surveys will be measured against. The ADM on Standard of Fire Safety compiles in one document many of the guidance practices currently in place and will be shared with the PA's before finalizing. OPWDD has partnered with OFPC, whose staff will conduct surveys of certified residences and report back to OPWDD. OFPC staff will be regionally based and a DQM training package will be presented in the near future, likely in a webinar format. OPWDD will use this opportunity to engage local fire marshals in this process. The PA Group commended OPWDD in the direction being taken with regard to fire safety. Jim Moran suggested that a few pilot surveys be done over the summer as a transition before the system is fully operational in September.

Community Habilitation II (Day Habilitation/IRA)

- Jenny Haneman presented on the concept of Community Habilitation II, a monthly service that would combine residential habilitation and day habilitation. This would be for individuals living in a certified supervised IRA/CR setting who receive day habilitation services from the same provider. This service can provide individuals with a greater choice and flexibility for meaningful community integration opportunities and activities while also allowing providers to have greater efficiency in service delivery and staff deployment. The PA group agreed that while this might not be a perfect match for all individuals it will help many, and they will offer feedback as this concept moves forward.

Updates

- *Efficiency Workgroup Update* – The first workgroup meeting is June 2nd and will focus on roles, objectives and deliverables. A tentative follow up meeting will be held on June 15th and will include a presentation on efficiencies by Peter Carpino of the Rochester United Way. OPWDD was encouraged to look at electronic systems for all providers reporting to cut down on audit risk and expense. Additionally, Jay Kiyonaga indicated that efficiencies of five to six million dollars on State Aid local assistance will need to be taken and will be worked out with the DDSO's to structure this reduction. Non-core services may be looked at to minimize the impact.

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- *1115 Waiver* – Kate Marlay handed out information that will be presented at the OPWDD public forums beginning May 25th and stated that registration for the sessions will be accepted up to the session start. The Steering Committee has been finalized and the Design Teams (Care Coordination, Choice and Access, Quality, Fiscal Sustainability and Benefits and Services) of 10 to 15 members are being formed, to be chaired by OPWDD staff and co-chaired by a stakeholder. Technical workgroups will be formed on a short term basis to make recommendations to the Design Teams. There will be a June 9th kickoff meeting for steering committee members and another meeting has been tentatively scheduled for June 20th for a Design Team kickoff. Part of the 1115 Waiver process includes a transition plan from OPWDD's current 1915c HCBS Waiver.
- *Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) Vendor Manual* – Suzanne Sennett indicated that the MSC Vendor Manual has been approved for distribution and will shortly be on the OPWDD web site. Copies will also be sent to PA Group, executive directors and DDSO directors.
- *Plans of Action* – Joanne Howard stated that a letter will go out on May 31st to those providers who have a preliminary percentage funding reduction that is equal to or greater than 3% as identified in the "Estimated Total Revenue Reduction Due to All Actions" percentage column in the May 3, 2011 OPWDD "Preliminary Estimate of Medicaid Rate Actions Effective July 1, 2011" transmittal. In addition, there may be some providers with less than a projected 3% percent operating reduction who may be asked to submit a plan. The three-part action plan will ask providers to indicate; any categorical expenditure and FTE reductions that will be taken, an explanation of any programmatic and fiscal actions an agency will take to absorb the reductions and an explanation of planned actions to minimize the impact on supports and services to individuals, and a signature section for the Executive Director. Providers will need to submit their plans by July 1, 2011 to their local DDSO with a copy to the agency's Board President.
- Joanne also requested input from the PA Group regarding Appendix X on the CFR (non-allowable costs) and the group will submit names to her to be part of the Appendix X workgroup.

Wrap Up

- The next meeting of the Provider Association will be Monday, June 27, 2011.